

# **Diversity in Small Businesses**

We surveyed nearly 300 small businesses across Minnesota about their workforce diversity.

Here's what they told us.

#### Are small businesses diverse?

#### Six out of 10 Minnesota small businesses

report that their workforce is diverse, according to their own definition of diversity.



#### Did You Know?

- Most small businesses understand diversity as the race/ethnicity, age, and/or gender of their employees.
- Many also consider national origin, disability status, and sexual orientation.

### What does diversity look like at small businesses?

For many small businesses, race does not contribute to the diversity of their workforce.



- Four in 10 small businesses report that everyone in their workforce identifies as white, non-Hispanic.
- Nearly half of these employers still said their workforce is diverse when considering age, gender, and other factors.

## Are small businesses trying to increase diversity?

### 1 in 4

small businesses are actively seeking to increase their racial diversity.

Among small businesses with people of color already on staff, that figure jumps to nearly

1 in 2







Visit mn.gov/deed/diversity for more

\* Small business is defined as having between 10 and 50 employees.

#### Source:

Minnesota Employer Workforce Diversity Survey, 2016 Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development